

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for controlling a design process having a first design sub-process (~~SP1~~) and a second design sub-process (~~SP2~~), outcomes of one of the first and second design sub-processes (~~SP1, SP2~~) being linked to outcomes of the other of the design sub-processes by a relationship between one or more first design sub-process variables (~~A~~) and one or more second design sub-process variables (~~B~~). The system comprises a user configurable interface (~~I~~) between the first and second design sub-processes (~~SP1, SP2~~), the interface allowing a user to the system to control the design process by specifying which of the one or more variables (~~A, B~~) (~~101-106, 111-114~~) are active variables which can have their domains modified by at least one ~~internal~~ process within the sub-process to which the variable belongs and which of the one or more variables (~~A, B~~) are passive variables which have their domains determined within allowable values by the domains of the other variable(s) in the relationship.